FLEET HOSPITAL EIGHT

Pieces of Eight

BAREMERTON

Volume 1 Issue 1, February 27, 2003

A word from the CO

We have arrived safely to our final destination and have opened Fleet Hospital Eight. The past couple of weeks have been a whirlwind, starting with the wonderful series of send-offs we received in Bremerton. The Naval Hospital-Fleet Hospital one-team concept was never more evident. The final event on Sunday, 16 February in the parking garage was an inspiration to all of us. I can't thank all of you enough-you've helped us greatly.

We'll communicate frequently to let you know of our progress. Everybody should know and rest-assured that we are all safe, reasonably comfortable and motivated to do the job we are trained for. We miss our families and friends but are doing important work and know that you are with us in this effort.

Respectfully, CAPT Kelly CO, FH-8



A farewell from Bremerton



Fleet Hospital Eight Casualty Receiving

What do you want to see in this newsletter? If you have a suggestion or a request regarding the content of this newsletter, please contact JO1(SW) Stacey Moore at smoore@fh08.navy.mil.

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The Chaplain's Message:

Greetings Shipmates, Family and Friends,

Since our arrival to our final destination. time and tired bodies have left many to perhaps put off writing or make a trip to the Internet to send off that awaited e-mail. But I think we're about past that stage and you should be getting some input from the field. Be assured that all of you have been in our daily thoughts and prayers. The adjustment to climate, water and food is tossed into the mix of challenges to the mission. But we are doing well and blessed with dedicated Sailors who carry the daily burdens, deal with the newness of a unique deployment like this, and adapt and overcome on a daily basis. Everyone from the CO and XO to the most junior Sailor find ourselves gradually unfolding the details of the mission and giving a new meaning to the words "Semper Gumbi," "Always Flexible."

This past Sunday saw many of our Fleet Hospital 8 crew participating in Church Services at the Base Chapel. We are fortunate to have a variety of worship experiences offered at the Chapel. So, spiritually I have a blessed and comfortable sense of everyone's ability to be spiritually fed during our deployment mission.

Let me assure you that this is a full blown field deployment environment that welcomes a time for spiritual and religious reflection and interaction. It is the heart of this spiritual life that I hear and see beating as I walk and wander through and between the units and wards now encased in our canvas home.

This is an awesome sight that you can be proud to say was built by the hands and hard labor or your family members, friends and coworkers. Be confident that the sacrifices you are making back home in Bremerton or elsewhere you call home are not made in vain. And, know that your support and especially your daily prayers and remembrances will carry us all through this mission. This is a work of love, blessed by the Hand of God, to serve and heal those who will come into our care.

I pray for all of you daily in thanksgiving for who you are and what you do to make our mission more successful.

Blessings of Peace to all of you,

Chaplain Trapani



The work began on arrival with offloading the sea bags.

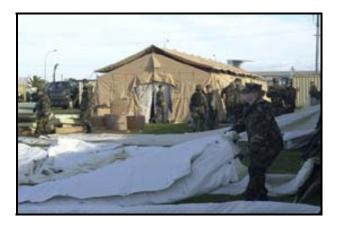


The fleet hospital set was packed in standard ISO containers that had to be staged and unpacked prior to the build.

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Once the frames were connected, on with the skin. This particular wing eventually connected with the open ISO container behind it



We got the tents up and the liners in



Each wing had to be lifted by hand once the skins and flys were on



The eight foot sections of the rain fly have to be assembled before spanning the entire wing



Once the liners and lights are installed, the tent is fully lifted and the floor is laid out. The floor of the tents, of course in eight foot sections, has Velcro strips to join the pieces

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The Fleet
Hospital
Eight
team
thanks
every one
of you at
home for
your
support
in this
endeavor.